

BOOK REVIEW

Curculionidae Tribe Ophryastini of North America (Coleoptera) by David G. Kissinger. Taxonomic Publications, S. Lancaster, Mass; 238 p., 14 Tables, 128 Figures; 1970.

In this monograph Kissinger continues his study of North American weevils. The tribe *Ophryastini* contains 2 genera, *Deracanthus* and *Ophryastes*. The former genus occurs in central Asia and *Ophryastes*, containing 48 known species, is found mostly in the arid southwestern part of the United States and Mexico. Two species range up through the Rocky Mountains into Canada. Members of the genus are large wingless beetles that feed on desert plants.

Kissinger presents a key to the species, followed by detailed descriptions of each. Four of the 48 species are described as new. The figures consist of photographs of mounted weevils and genitalia, line drawings, and a series of maps showing the distribution of each species. The tables contain measurements of 9 variables (e.g. length of rostrum, width of frons, etc.) for males and females of each species. For each of these 9 variables, the means, standard deviations, and maximum and minimum values are given.

Up to this point we have the traditional monograph. In the last 12 figures the author presents the results of applying statistical procedures by means of computer programs to this data. First he applied a principal component factor analysis to these 9 measurements made on both males and females. This resulted in length of elytra, width of elytra, and the maximum width of the pronotum accounting for most of the variance. The disadvantage of this type of analysis was thereby demonstrated because significant taxonomic characteristics were not identified. Then he made a multiple discriminant analysis to see, if by this method and using the same 9 measurements, 1 species could be separated from another. With minor exceptions, the discriminant function was able to assign individuals to the correct species with probabilities between .95 and 1.00. However, it should be noted that he used species in this analysis that were not closely related ones.

This monograph is up to Kissinger's usual excellent work. The composition of the work and its reproduction are very good. The statistical analysis may be indicative of what we may expect in the future. Altogether it is an excellent job.—N. M. Downie

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The environmental destruction of south Florida edited by W. R. McCluney. 1971. University of Miami Press, Drawer 9088, Coral Gables, Florida, 33124. 134p.; 3 maps; paper; \$1.95.

There is probably no area of comparable size in the U. S. which is more likely to have its fauna and flora depleted than south Florida. This book will help to call attention to this rapid destruction, but it is a far cry from the great naturalist's books on the subject (e. g. W. S. Blatchley's *In days agone* (1932); J. K. Small's *From eden to sahara—Florida's tragedy* (1929), or Thomas Barbour's *That vanishing eden—a naturalists Florida* (1945).

The most authoritative and redeeming part of the book is one of its 21 chapters by the indefatigable F. C. Craighead. Who among our readers does not know his work with Böving on Coleoptera larvae or his thorough book on the insect enemies of eastern forests? His first visit to south Florida in 1918 enables him to discuss the area in perspective. He has worked there for more than 15 years since his retirement and is fully aware of man's role in destroying our subtropical environment, along with its flora and fauna.—R. E. Woodruff.